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# REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING

Abuja, Nigeria 7-8 February 1991

## A. ORGANIZATION

1. The eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 7 and 8 February 1991, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

## B. ATTENDANCE

2. Representatives of the following member States attended the meeting: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following United Nations specialized agencies, institutions and African intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting: International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Bank (IBRD), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), African Development Bank (ADB), African Airlines Association (AFRAA), Agence pour la securité de la navigation aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar (ASECNA), Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA), Conference des administrations des postes et télécommunications de l'Afrique centrale (CAPTAC), Economic Community of West Africa (CEAO), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Mano River Union (MRU), Ministerial Conference of West and Central African States on Maritime Transport (MINCONMAR), Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), Permanent Inter-State Committee for the fight against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Union africaine des postes et télécommunications (UAPT) and Union of National Radio and Television Organizations in Africa (URTNA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Road Federation (IRF) and OPEC Fund.

4. France, India and Italy attended the meeting as observers.

## C. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Major General Muhammadu Gado Nasko welcomed the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Honourable Ministers and other delegates to Abuja. He stated that the new Federal Capital Territory occupies some 8,000 $km^2$ of land while Abuja city itself occupies 265 $km^2$ of land. The Honourable Minister called on

African countries intending to relocate their capital cities to share their experience with Nigeria.

6. Finally he urged the delegates to seize the opportunity of their visit to familiarize themselves with Abuja and its environs.

7. The outgoing chairman of the Conference, His Excellency Mr. El Ghazouani Rachidi, Minister of Planning of Morocco, paid a resounding tribute to the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He thanked the Government and people of Nigeria for the warm welcome which had been accorded to all participants and, once again, thanked the Executive Secretary of ECA and his colleagues.

8. He recalled the resolution adopted in Tangier on the preparation of the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (UNTACDA II) and the approval of the document on objectives, strategies and guidelines for that exercise. The document had helped to spell out the responsibilities of the various partners, the tasks of committees and the project selection criteria. To implement the resolution, several meetings of various working groups had been organized using the bottom-up approach. That had been done with a view to securing a workable programme to be submitted to the Conference for consideration. In spite of the efforts made, it had not been possible to submit a list of projects.

9. With regard to the other resolutions which were adopted at Tangier, action had been taken and reports there on submitted to the Meeting of Experts. He ended by thanking all the agencies and persons who had assisted with the preparation of UNTACDA II programme.

10. After thanking the Nigerian Government and the Executive Secretary of ECA Mr. K. Apetey, a Director of the African Development Bank (ADB) reiterated the total support of his Bank for all the efforts made to provide the African continent with an efficient and reliable transport and communications system, which was a prior necessity for the economic growth, social progress and subregional and regional integration of the continent.

11. He indicated that during the period 1967-1990, ADB had made available the sum of $US 3.2 billion for the transport sector alone, corresponding to about 20 per cent of all the amount provided by the Bank to development. In addition to this, the opening of the Bank's capital had increased considerably the annual commitments of the Bank. The annual commitments for the transport sector moved up from an average $US 100 million per annum for the period 1967-1987 to $US 400 million per annum for the period 1988-1989, which was a four-fold increase of its annual commitments.

12. He specified that ADB Group had given particular attention to projects aimed at the physical and economic integration of the continent and to the development of subregional and regional co-operation. Thus, it contributed actively to PANAFTEL and RASCOM projects and demonstrated interest in

multilateral projects, inter-State links and the economically profitable sections of the trans-African highways.

13. On the preparation of UNTACDA II programme, the ADB representative recalled the role of his institution in the Resource Mobilization Committee and on the other activities that had been carried out over the past year. He pointed to the activities aimed at promoting the second Decade carried out by his Bank in the international fora in which it had participated. With regard to mobilization of resources, he specified that ADB would contribute significantly to financing and mobilizing the necessary resources for the implementation of UNTACDA II programme.

14. Concluding, he emphasized that his Bank would give particular attention to the quality of the preparatory activities, the implementation of the strategies and the formulation of efficient policies for improving the transport and communications sector. In this regard, he recommended strongly that African States shall:

(a) Mobilize as much local resources as possible in addition to external resources for the development of the sector;

(b) Formulate economically and socially viable projects in conformity with the objectives and the strategies for developing the sectors;

(c) Always bear in mind that improving the efficiency of transport and communications systems actually required new investments as well as maintenance of existing infrastructure and equipment, implementation of institutional reforms, facilitation procedures, improvement of policies and, finally, development of human resources.

15. Ambassador B.N.Dede, Assistant Secretary General of OAU said that the movement of people, goods and services throughout Africa was being constrained by the missing links in the various modes of transport and communications and that the lack of co-ordinated efforts in inter-connecting arrangements was not conducive to the rapid establishment of the African Economic Community for which the sector was crucial. He also underlined the fact that the state of transport and communications infrastructural facilities and services between and within African countries left much to be desired.

16. The Lagos Plan of Action which aimed at integrating the economies of African countries through a gradual process planned to culminate in the establishment of the African Economic Community put emphasis on the inter-connectivity of transport and communications networks in Africa. To translate the objectives of the Plan into reality, the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1978-1988) had been incorporated into the Plan. The first Decade having ended, it had become necessary for Africa to launch a second Transport and Communications Decade so as to have an effective programme to cover the period of the Plan and maintain the momentum already generated.

17. The Assistant Secretary-General further said that during the first Decade, Africa had demonstrated its firm commitment to the programme by providing about 50 per cent of the total finance obtained, a commendable effort considering the virtual collapse of the prices of Africa's export commodities.

18. He therefore called on the Ministers and the principal decision-makers in the sector to ensure that the projects of UNTACDA II were included in their national development plans and accorded the highest priority so as to give the second Decade programme its credibility in the eyes of the donor community.

19. Turning to the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM), he said that as the project was very important for Africa's development and for the establishment of the African Economic Community, it should therefore be a major project in UNTACDA II programme.

20. He concluded by appealing to member States, subregional economic communities, sectoral African intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, financial institutions, the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee, the Resource Mobilization Committee and ECA the lead agency, to co-operate closely in the implementation of the Decade programme in the higher interests of the African continent.

21. In his address to the meeting, Mr. Pekka Tarjanne, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, recalled that the first World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Arusha, Tanzania in 1985, had declared that telecommunications should be brought within easy reach of mankind by the early part of the next century and observed that the gap of telecommunication service availability between the industrialized and the developing world should be bridged in the interest of both parties. Unfortunately, the situation to date was going in the reverse direction while telecommunications had become more than ever, a critical element in all walks of life.

22. Since the major part of economic activity occurred in the rural areas of the African continent, it was such areas of each country that needed to be provided with the right tool for development. Given the diminishing resources to be allocated for development, he suggested that priority be given to telecommunications. The relevance of the RASCOM feasibility study lay in being a comprehensive integrated telecommunication and broadcasting network study, and not simply a satellite system study. It had as its cornerstone the requirement to evaluate appropriate modern technologies in terms of cost, revenue and social benefits in the interest of the totality of the population of each country. Such analysis would enable member States to plan how close they could bring telephone and other telecommunications services to their people.

23. In his view, no rural or other integrated development plan should be launched without an appropriate component of telecommunication. For a small

timely investment, member countries would be able to develop faster for having secured an adequate flow of information. As Africa proceeded towards economic integration, it was absolutely essential for member countries to launch an active programme for harmonizing their telecommunication policy. The African Regional Telecommunication Development Conference held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in December 1990 had produced a commendable telecommunication policy in that regard. He ended by pledging the full support of ITU to the viable goal of improving communications in Africa, thus enhancing national, subregional and regional economic growth and the standard of living of all Africans.

24. Professor Adebayo Adedeji, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, remarked that the first lesson drawn from the experience of the last Decade had been to adopt a new approach which would intimately involve the participation of the African peoples in the inception, conception and preparation of the UNTACDA II programme. The strategy had been based on the belief that lasting and sustained development of Africa would take place only when a bottom-up participatory approach was adopted for programme design and implementation. In pursuit of that approach, the Conference had set up, at its seventh meeting in 1989, various working groups to prepare the programme at national, subregional and sectoral levels.

25. The Executive Secretary stressed that, as the effectiveness of the UNTACDA II programme would depend on how well it addressed development needs at the national level, it behoved each Government to set up and sustain its NCC throughout the Decade. He appealed to the 19 countries that had not yet set up their national mechanism to do so without delay and emphasized that the formation of NCCs reflected the commitment by each Government to the Decade.

26. Regarding the progress achieved in the preparation of the programme, he reported that a series of convergence meetings attended by NCC representatives, the subregional working groups and the subsectoral working groups had been organized for each subregion to review the priorities of each subregion and agree on the priority programme. The draft subregional programmes arising from these meetings had been subsequently consolidated by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee (IACC) into the draft regional programme. In this regard, he commended the IACC and the Resource Mobilization Committee for the excellent work done, and expressed his sincere appreciation to the Administrator of UNDP and to the Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa for UNDP's support in the preparation of the programme.

27. Mr. Adedeji further reported that the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts had agreed that there was a need for more time to carry out a more careful analysis of the projects submitted to date by countries and subregional organizations. In that regard, it was recommended that a technical committee of the RMC be set up to assist the Resource Mobilization Committee in screening projects for inclusion in the initial programme of

UNTACDA II. The exercise should be completed by May 1991 before the ECA Conference of Ministers took place in Addis Ababa to review and adopt the programme for submission to the Economic and Social Council for transmission to the United Nations General Assembly which, in turn, would finally launch UNTACDA II at its regular session later in 1991. In that regard, the experts had recommended that the Conference consider the following alternatives for approval of the projects to be included in the initial programme: either to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning in early May 1991, or for the Conference to mandate its present bureau, expanded by two representatives from each of the five subregions, and open-ended to allow for the participation of as many countries as might wish to do so, to meet late in April 1991 to examine the projects before they were submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers in May 1991.

28. The experts had also recommended that instead of having projects submitted once and for all, they should be reviewed every year. This not only made for flexibility, but ensured that only projects that satisfied all criteria were admitted. Also, the programme should be evaluated every three years as a means to provide for mid-course correction.

29. Referring to the project on the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM), he expressed the hope that all partners would be unequivocally committed both politically and financially to the project. In that connection, he felt encouraged by the generous offer of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the headquarters of the project. The gesture was a manifestation of commitment to a project by far the most important under UNTACDA II. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary reminded the meeting that the burden of implementation of the programme lay on the member States. Therefore the projects to be included in the programme must be priority projects that will contribute optimally to national development. Given the limitation of resources, member States must follow the strategies that would yield the best results. African Governments and people must make efforts on which their very survival depended. Nevertheless, he expressed the hope that donor institutions and governments would assist Africa in that effort and accord priority to the Decade projects in their lending programmes.

30. Engineer O.A. Ige, Minister of Communications of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, stated that since the inception of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the development of transport and communications in Africa had been of major concern to the Heads of State of member countries. The combined efforts of OAU and its agencies and the co-operation of the United Nations specialized agencies operating in Africa had resulted in the proclamation of the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA I). To prepare a programme for UNTACDA II, participants would need to take stock of activities conducted during the past Decade, evaluate them and determine the successes and failures before progress would be made towards the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of Africans.

31. In pursuance of that objective, experts from all parts of the continent had met in Abuja to proffer solutions to the problems and their advice had been examined at the various sectoral levels. The collated data and recommendations from that exercise had been assembled by the Economic Commission for Africa. Under the able leadership of ECA's Executive Secretary, he was sure that the current meeting would be successful. His profound appreciation went to all the members of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee for their steadfastness and unflinching support.

32. On behalf of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, (Rtd) Admiral Augustus Aikhomu, Vice-President of the Republic, commended participants for having made it a point to attend the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning. Their action underscored the importance they attached to regional co-operation and integrated planning in the effective implementation of the UNTACDA II programme.

33. He traced the history of integration efforts made by African countries since their attainment of political independence and of the support provided by the international community. All that had resulted in the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of the period 1978-1988 as the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade. Not only were the problems and constraints that necessitated the formulation of the UNTACDA I programme still very much alive, but also the situation had been aggravated by modernization and technological advances in transport and communications.

34. It was disturbing that Africa found itself in the vortex of a technological revolution which it had neither helped to create nor to perpetuate. As the continent traversed the 1990s, the challenge was for its member States to shift their focus away from merely reacting to such changes and proceed with the development of institutional arrangements and a regulatory framework that would enable them to manage dynamic change. The key factors to be stressed in that endeavour were adaptability, flexibility and economy. Accordingly, the issues that the Conference must address had to do with the changing global environment of communications and transport. The breakthroughs in transport and communications technology must be kept under close observation and their developmental impact assessed and considered by African planners. The institutional issues, services, human resources development and training components of the UNTACDA II programme should be of particular interest to participants.

35. In spite of the foregoing constraints, he was heartened by the fact that the African region was highly conducive to international co-operation, business collaboration and attendant adjustments which should be nurtured and exploited to ensure the growth of transport and communications in the region. The work of the Conference would be done only if it recognized and addressed the global changes in the technological and commercial aspects of transport and communications while giving due regard to the international regulatory environment.

36. In his statement, the Honourable Matthew Yaya Baldeh, Gambian Minister of Works and Communications, underscored the commitment of his Government to the early establishment of the RASCOM institution since the eventual setting-up of a dedicated satellite system through a progressive approach with greater emphasis on the rural areas would have a significant impact on the socio-economic development of African countries, and was in line with his country telecommunications development programme.

37. He stated that the National Co-ordinating Committee of his country was working very hard to prepare its national programme for submission without further delay to the Resource Mobilization Committee through ECA.

38. Recognizing the important role of the sectors, he called for maximum efforts to ensure that the policy decisions resulting from the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning should be priority policies of Africa's respective Governments in implementing UNTACDA II. In conclusion, he urged African Governments to consider giving priority to the transport and communications sector when seeking loans and when allocating resources in their development budgets.

39. Colonel Dieng Oumar Harouna, Minister of Infrastructural Development and Transport of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, stated that review of the lessons drawn from the UNTACDA I programme should make for better preparation of UNTACDA II. The guidelines adopted reflected his own country's priority programme for economic recovery and development. He felt the need for preparing a comprehensive and realistic programme that would arouse the interest and secure the commitment of the international community. However, he stressed that in implementing the programme for UNTACDA II, African countries would have to count on their own resources first and foremost and use external financing only as a supplement to their own efforts.

40. Mr. K. Mathieu Bouab, representative of Burkina Faso expressed satisfaction with the work that had been done since the last meeting of the Conference of Ministers held in Tangier. He stressed the need for paying serious attention to the setting of priorities among the projects, with due prominence given to regional and subregional projects and international projects with subregional impact, as well as to the projects of land-locked countries.

41. He reported that, given the importance it attached to transport and communications, his country was currently preparing a sectoral adjustment programme which gave top priority to opening up the remote parts of the country and providing the country itself with access to the outside world. In the area of telecommunications, priority had been accorded to increasing the density of telephone services, the maintenance of equipment and the raising of productivity.

42. He stressed the need for moving on to the implementation phase of the RASCOM project and preparing for the second Decade a realistic programme

which took into account both the constraints and the capacity for mobilizing resources. His country undertook to give every support to the implementation of the UNTACDA II programme.

43. Mr. Moustapha Ka, Minister of Culture and Communications of Senegal stated that, in his country's view, the purpose of the UNTACDA II programme was to form a basis for increased co-operation among member countries. For that to happen, efforts should be directed at building communication links among the States, adopting measures that would facilitate the movement of goods and persons and implementing local projects that would stimulate endogenous development and also have a subregional or regional impact.

44. The strategic planning adopted for the preparation of the UNTACDA II programme appeared to be the best approach and reflected what his own country was already doing. Senegal had just formulated a transport policy aimed at rehabilitating and modernizing existing infrastructure with a view to improving the efficiency of the entire transport system.

45. He gave information on the inter-State committees established with neighbouring countries, on an ad hoc basis, to oversee the construction of inter-State links. Such committees had been quite efficient in carrying out their assignments.

## D. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Election of officers (agenda item 2)

46. The meeting elected the following officers:

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|---|---|
| Chairman: | Nigeria |
| First Vice-Chairman: | Zaire |
| Second Vice-Chairman: | Mauritania |
| First Rapporteur: | Malawi |
| Second Rapporteur: | Zimbabwe |

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 3)

47. The following agenda was adopted by the meeting:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Consideration and adoption of the draft UNTACDA II programme as recommended by the eighth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Committee of Experts

5. Consideration of other topics and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts

6. Consideration of the report of the special Conference of Ministers in charge of Telecommunications on the RASCOM project

7. Consideration of draft resolutions

8. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers

9. Any other business

10. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

Consideration and adoption of the draft UNTACDA II programme as recommended by the eighth Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts (agenda item 4)

48. Dr. Ola Adegbeyeni, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts presented a report on the proceedings of the meeting. Concerning the progress made in the preparation of the programme, he reported that, although the programme of the second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa was based on the bottom-up approach, only 32 national co-ordinating committees had been established and, of these, only 19 had submitted their national programmes as at the end of December 1990. Consequently, the Resource Mobilization Committee and the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee had recommended, and the experts had accepted, that more time was needed to allow countries which had not done so to submit their projects and to enable the RMC and the IACC to analyze further those projects for possible inclusion in the initial programme. Thus no list of projects had been included in the draft programme document.

49. He then highlighted some new aspects which have been introduced in the UNTACDA II programme, namely the fact that all projects shall be properly screened by the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) with the assistance of its technical subcommittee to improve their prospects for financing and implementation; the frequent evaluation of the programme every three years with a view to updating and making it always well-focused on the issues; the full involvement of African countries, subsectoral and subregional groups in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the programme; and the definition of quantifiable targets for monitoring and subsequent evaluation programme implementation.

50. Discussion by the experts on the draft document had focused on the following issues: the fear that structural adjustment programmes would pose a problem in mobilizing local resources for transport and communications; the non-inclusion of projects in the document presented; the extent to which reports of the NCCs had been used; the mechanism for submission and selection of projects; and whether or not the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning should meet once again

to approve projects for the initial programme prior to their submission to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

51. As concerned the mechanism for approving projects for the initial phase, the Meeting of Experts proposed the following alternatives for consideration by the Ministers:

(a) Organization in early May 1991 before the ECA Conference of Ministers of a two-day meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

(b) The Conference of Ministers could mandate its bureau, expanded by one or two representatives per subregion to meet in Addis Ababa to approve the projects proposed by the IACC and submit them directly to the ECA Conference of Ministers in May 1991.

52. The Chairman also reported on the other items which the Meeting of Experts had considered. However, the discussions on these were deferred to agenda item 5. Thus, he submitted to the Ministers the document entitled "Draft programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II): 1991-2000" (document DOC/UNTACDA/MIN/04/Rev.2).

53. The meeting took note of the experts report and considered the draft UNTACDA II programme document, chapter by chapter, making amendments where necessary, as summarized below:

Chapter 1: Para. 1.17: Keep only the first two sentences and delete the rest of the paragraph.

Chapter V: (i) Para 5.4 (d) add "...with priority given to the promotion of national small and medium-scale road maintenance enterprises" (ii) Concerning the targets on air transport, a number of delegates proposed that paragraph 5.5 (g) on air traffic services should either be deleted or changed to avoid any adverse implication should the text be maintained. A small working group was formed to formulate a new text taking into account all the points raised. The new text that was adopted is as follows:

(g) Air traffic: to improve air traffic services with a view to enhancing crew efficiency and passenger safety.

Section 5.7 telecommunications: to make the following changes:

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|---|---|---|
| Para. 5.7 (b) | (i) | delete "or 8,000 DEL per year" |
| | (ii) | delete "or 8,200 DEL per year" |
| | (iii) | delete "or 45,000 DEL per year" |
| | (iv) | delete ""or 84,000 DEL per year" |
| | (v) | Add: "Improve access to telephone services in rural areas |

Para. 5.7 (c) (i) change "minimum" to "maximum" and specify that 0.5 per cent is an annual rate

Para. 5.7 (d) the figure should read "50 employees/1000 lines"

Para. 5.7 (h) Add: "Complete the feasibility studies for the establishment of manufacturing industries in Africa"

Para. 5.7 (i) "Establishment of manufacturing enterprises for the production of telecommunication equipment identified as feasible by the studies"

Para. 5.8 (b) Add at the end of the sentence: "take appropriate measures to ensure that national broadcasting stations covered their respective territories".

Consideration of other issues and recommendations of the Meeting of Experts (agenda item 5)

54. The attention of the Ministers was also drawn to other issues contained in the report of the Meeting of Experts concerning the mechanism for approving the projects which would be proposed by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee in April 1991, the planned workshops for strengthening of human resources management and the establishment of the single bureau of the trans-African highway authorities. The Ministers decided to hold an extraordinary meeting in Addis Ababa on 7 and 8 May 1991 to approve the projects which would be proposed by the IACC before the meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

55. With regard to the subregional workshops on the strengthening of human resources management and institutional capabilities within the transport and communications sectors that ECA planned to organize with the assistance of UNDP, the meeting welcomed that initiative and requested the ECA Executive Secretary to do his utmost to ensure that the programme was extended to the North African subregion. The member States concerned were invited to support the action that the Executive Secretary might take in approaching the UNDP Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes.

56. In that context, the representative of Morocco informed the meeting that his country would be honoured to host the workshop for the North African subregion.

57. Concerning the single bureau of the trans-African highway authorities, the Executive Secretary recalled the decisions that had been taken on this issue by the Conference of Ministers in Cairo, Kinshasa and Tangier. He nevertheless proposed that in view of the complexity of the issue and in order to allow member States sufficient time, the item should be placed on the agenda of the special meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning scheduled for May 1991.

Consideration of the report of the Special Conference of Ministers in charge of Telecommunications on the RASCOM project (agenda item 6)

58. The Chairman of the special Conference of African Ministers of Telecommunications presented the report of the meeting which had taken place from 4 to 6 February 1991. This meeting had been preceded by the second meeting of the Interim Executive Committee of Experts from the African countries.

59. Essentially, the report focused on the following four main elements:

(a) Background and approach to the RASCOM study;

(b) Present status and future requirements of telecommunications in Africa, with due consideration to local manufacturing and appropriate specifications for the continent;

(c) Satellite system options for Africa;

(d) Implementation proposals for RASCOM.

60. In conclusion, he informed the meeting that the special Conference had agreed to proceed to the implementation phase of the project which would consist of two stages, namely transitional and operational. The transitional phase was to commence immediately. Additionally, the institutional framework that will apply during the transitional stage was approved. The cost of the transitional stage would be borne by contributions from member States as well as from financial institutions and donor countries.

62. After discussion of the report, resolution RASCOM/01 of the Special Conference of African Ministers responsible for Telecommunications was adopted and is annexed to this report.

63. Cote d'Ivoire reiterated its offer to host the next meeting of Ministers of Telecommunications.

Consideration of draft resolutions (agenda item 7)

64. The meeting considered the following three draft resolutions:

(a) The draft resolution on the special Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, was amended to reflect the objectives of resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/82, adopted in Tangier, on the establishment of priorities for implementing the Decade programme.

(b) The draft resolution on the launching of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade was adopted with some amendment.

(c) The draft resolution RASCOM/01 on the Regional African Satellite Communications System was endorsed.

65. These resolutions are attached to this report.

Date and venue of the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 8)

66. The Ministers decided to hold an extraordinary meeting on 8 and 8 May 1991 at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, to adopt the first list of projects to be included in the UNTACDA II programme and to review proposals on the setting up of the single bureau of the trans-African highway authorities.

Any other business (agenda item 9)

67. The representative of Morocco informed the meeting that his country was organizing in Marrakesh, from 22 to 28 September 1991 the nineteenth World Highway Congress. Along with that important event which would take place for the first time in an African country, a special meeting would be devoted to consideration of the problem of opening up by road developing countries in general and African countries in particular.

68. He hoped that African member States would attend along with ECA and the organizations involved in preparing the programme for UNTACDA II. Participants could bring along with them papers on the following themes to be addressed by the Congress: allocation of resources to network development and opening up of land-locked and remote areas; policies for extending rural networks; appropriate techniques, standards and methods of selecting the dimensions of and building roads for low-density traffic.

Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting (agenda item 10)

69. The Conference adopted its report after making some amendments.

70. His Excellency Mr. Rugunda, Minister of Transport and Communications and head of the delegation of Uganda, read a vote of thanks on behalf of all participants to President Ibrahim Babangida, the Government and People of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the warm hospitality accorded to delegations and the excellent arrangements which had enabled the work of the Conference to proceed smoothly.

71. His Excellency Mr. Mustapha Ka, Minister of Culture and Communications and head of the delegation of Senegal congratulated the Chairman, on behalf of all participants, for his patience and the able way in which he had conducted the discussions making it possible for the meeting to arrive at important decisions.

72. In his closing remarks, the Chairman expressed satisfaction with the high level of member State participation which went to show the importance that African countries attached to regional co-operation as a means of solving economic and social problems of the continent.

73. He commended participants for the excellent work they had done and drew their attention to the need for impressing upon their Governments the urgency of according top priority to the UNTACDA II programme in their resource allocation.

74. The Chairman expressed the appreciation of the meeting to all the United Nations specialised agencies and to all African IGOs. Their participation in the meeting raised hopes that the Decade objectives would be achieved.

75. Finally, he wished participants a safe return to their countries and declared closed the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/83
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT,
COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, on 7 and 8 February 1991,

Having examined the draft UNTACDA II programme and noting that it does not yet contain any projects,

Conscious of the difficulties encountered in the preparation of projects at the national level due to the delays in establishing national co-ordinating committees,

Considering the need to include viable projects in the programme,

Considering also the responsibility of the Resource Mobilization Committee to recommend to the lead agency and the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee, projects which should be accorded the highest priority and to actively promote the programme and priority projects,

Recognizing the role of the African intergovernmental organizations in the harmonization of projects with a view to economic integration,

1. Requests the Resource Mobilization Committee, with the assistance of African subregional economic co-operation organizations, to urgently and adequately screen all projects submitted before the end of February 1991 for inclusion in the programme in accordance with the objectives, strategies and guidelines and with resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/82 defining the DECADE priorities so that they can be submitted to the Special meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

2. Decides to hold a special meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on 7 and 8 May 1991 and before the ECA Conference of Ministers with a view to adopting the first list of projects to be included in the UNTACDA II programme;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to convene the above-mentioned meeting in Addis Ababa.

**RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/84**
**LAUNCHING OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA (UNTACDA II)**

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting at Abuja, Nigeria, from 7 to 8 February 1991

Recalling its resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.88/73, adopted at Kinshasa, Zaire in March 1988, in which it requested the appropriate United Nations bodies to take necessary measures to proclaim a second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

Recalling also ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 639 (XXIII) and ECOSOC resolution 1988/67 of 28 July 1988 both proclaiming the period 1991 to 2000 as the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

Further referring to its resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/75 of 12 November 1989 adopted at Tangier, Morocco in which it supported the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts and endorsed the goals, global and sectoral objectives and guidelines for preparing the strategies and programme of the Second Decade;

Having considered the report of the eighth intergovernmental Meeting of Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning, together with its recommendations on the strategy and programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

Appreciating the work done by the National Co-ordinating Committees, the Resource Mobilization Committee, the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee, subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations and the sectoral working groups in preparing the strategy and programme of the second Decade;

Noting with appreciation the contributions of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the subregional intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations specialized agencies to the preparation of the Second Decade programme;

Recognizing the important role incumbent on the National Co-ordinating Committees and the various African subregional and regional organizations during the implementation phase of the Second Decade programme;

1. Adopts the programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1991-2000 (UNTACDA II).

2. Recommends the Decade programme to the ECA Conference of Ministers for approval.

3. Requests the ECA Conference of Ministers to appeal to the General Assembly of the United Nations:

(a) To formally launch the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa which was declared in its resolution 43/179 of 1988; and

(b) To provide the Economic Commission for Africa with the necessary regular budget resources to enable it to effectively and efficiently carry out the responsibilities mandated to it as the lead agency of the Decade programme.

4. Requests the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to submit the programme through the appropriate organs to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its next meeting at Abuja, Nigeria, for approval.

5. Appeals to all African Governments, as beneficiaries of the programme, to give every support for the achievement of the objectives of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade programme at national, subregional and regional levels by:

(a) Ensuring the establishment and proper functioning of National Co-ordinating Committees;

(b) Participating in financing and implementing the national projects that will be included in the programme;

(c) Contributing and co-operating effectively in the financing and implementation of subregional and regional Decade projects.

6. Requests ECA, as lead agency, to ensure that adequate manpower and financial resources, regular and extra-budgetary, are allocated for harmonizing, co-ordinating and monitoring of the Decade activities and other relevant projects which have been mandated to ECA as lead agency.

7. Appeals to the United Nations agencies and other international organizations to provide all the necessary technical and other assistance to African Governments and work very closely with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee and African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations in order to effectively implement the Second Decade programme and projects.

8. Appeals to individual international, African, regional and subregional financial institutions to ensure and facilitate the financing of national, subregional and regional Decade projects by giving adequate priority and special attention to the second Decade programme and projects in their respective lending activities in Africa, and to commit themselves

actively and collectively, to the mobilization of adequate resources for the effective implementation of projects in the UNTACDA II programme.

9. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for the efforts it made to provide assistance in order to enable African countries to properly prepare the second Decade programme.

10. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to provide the African countries with the technical assistance needed to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation and to evaluate the results of the Second Decade Programme.

11. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to its next meeting on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 91/85
REGIONAL AFRICAN SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

The Special Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Telecommunications meeting, Abuja, Nigeria, 4-6 February 1991,

Recalling Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 89/76 of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning adopted at Tangier, Morocco, November 1989;

Having considered the report of the second meeting of the Interim Executive Committee (IEC) of RASCOM based on the final report of the feasibility study on the Regional African Satellite Communication System (RASCOM);

1. Endorses the report of the Interim Executive Committee;

2. Congratulates the National Coordinating Committee, the Inter- Agency Coordinating Committee and the RASCOM project office for the quality of the feasibility study;

3. Expresses its gratitude to ADB, UNDP, OAU, ITU, UNESCO, the Governments of Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany for their contribution towards the financing of the feasibility study. Also expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Ethiopia and Zimbabwe for their initial action towards the mobilization of resources;

4. Agrees that a dedicated satellite system is a viable option for the African countries as an ultimate objective with the interim stage being implemented by leasing and/or purchasing transponders;

5. Decides to proceed immediately to the implementation of the transitional stage (12 months) during which all necessary elements required to establish a RASCOM organization will be collected and presented to the special Conference of Telecommunications Ministers scheduled to be convened at the end of the transitional stage;

6. Approves the proposed institutional framework for the transitional stage as given in the Annex to this resolution;

8. Invites the IACC to continue to support the project and collaborate with the RASCOM Interim Office during the transitional stage;

9. Requests the ITU to continue to be the Executing Agency for the transitional stage and to host the RASCOM Interim Office during this period;

10. Requests the member countries to pay the contributions of not less than US$10,000 as soon as possible;

11. Invites the financing institutions and donor countries to contribute towards the funding of the transitional stage of RASCOM;

12. Instructs the RASCOM Interim office to carry out the study on the pooling of African domestic transponders. To this end it should make the necessary contacts with INTELSAT, ARABSAT and all other concerned satellite communication organizations;

13. Requests ITU to take action to mobilize resources for the RASCOM projected through its Voluntary Programme;

14. Requests also the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) of UNTACDA II, which is chaired by ADB to take all the necessary steps to mobilize resources for the transitional and implementation stages of RASCOM.

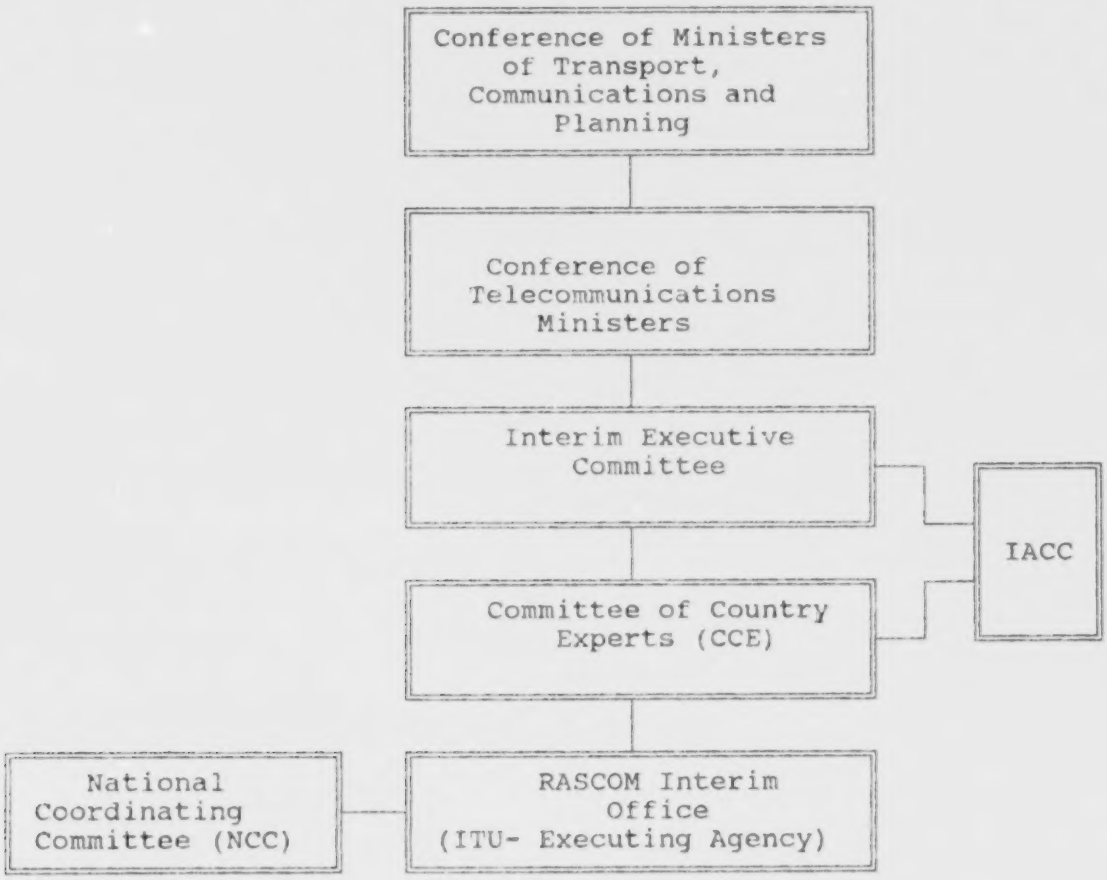
15. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to transmit the report of the Special Conference of Ministers responsible for telecommunications to the 8th Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning for appropriate follow-ups;

16. Further requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to convene a special Conference of Ministers responsible for telecommunications to take a decision on the establishment of an African satellite organization, at the end of the transitional phase;

17. Takes note of the generous offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the headquarters of the future RASCOM organization;

18. Expresses its sincere thanks to the government and people of Nigeria for their warm reception, hospitality and all the arrangements made to ensure the success of the Conference.

THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSITIONAL PHASE


Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning
Conference of Telecommunications Ministers
Interim Executive Committee
IACC
Committee of Country Experts (CCE)
National Coordinating Committee (NCC)
RASCOM Interim Office (ITU- Executing Agency)

(i) The fifteen member Committee of Country Experts (CCE) will direct and supervise the RASCOM Interim Office on behalf of the Conference of Ministers. The members of the CCE are selected from the five subregions in proportion to the number of countries in each subregion. After consultation among the subregions the following countries were selected; Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

(ii) The CCE will supervise the transitional stage in accordance with the decision of the Conference of Ministers. To this end, it will set up a plan of action on the carrying out of the work and decide on the number of meetings it intends to hold and any other arrangements that it deems necessary.

(iii) The cost of participation of the members of the CCE will be borne by their respective countries.

(iv) It is recommended that the CCE hold its first meeting in Abuja after the decision of the Conference of Telecommunications Ministers in order to take the appropriate decision on the core staff that is needed to set up the RASCOm Interim Office. The members of the IACC would participate in this meeting in an advisory capacity.

(v) The present IACC will be maintained to advise the CCE and assist on the resource mobilization in the implementation of the transitional stage. The cost of participation of the IACC members will be borne by their respective organizations.

(vi) In order to commence the transitional stage without delay and to benefit from the logistic support of the ITU Headquarters it is recommended that the RASCOM Interim office be located in Geneva.

(vii) The ITU is requested to continue to be the Executing Agency for the transitional stage. It is also requested to host the RASCOM Interim office be located in Geneva.

(viii) The RASCOM Interim Office which will work under the supervision of the CCE, will be charged with the implementation of the transitional stage activities as described above in close collaboration with the national committees. The nucleus of the interim office should be drawn from the present Project Office and complemented by the services of specialists as and when required.

# VOTE OF THANKS

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting at Abuja, Nigeria on 7 and 8 February, 1991

Appreciating the excellent arrangement made by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja in providing equally excellent facilities and creating a most conducive atmosphere for the successful deliberations;

Further appreciating the warm and typically African hospitality which has been extended to all participants since their arrival on Nigerian soil;

Expresses their most sincere gratitude to His Excellency the President, General Ibrahim Babangida, the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Done in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, this 8th day of February, 1991

THE CONFERENCE

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning

Abuja, Nigeria
7-8 February 1991

COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE POUR L'AFRIQUE

Huitième réunion de la Conférence des ministres africains des des transports, des communications et de la planification

Abuja (Nigéria)
7-8 février 1991

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